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(CRIME)

WASHINGTON--THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW ORLEANS CRIME COMMISSION SAID TODAY HE IS GOING TO SEEK PERJURY CHARGES AGAINST A FORMER LOUISIANA RACING COMMISSIONER BECAUSE OF TESTIMONY CONCERNING POLITICAL DONATIONS LINKED TO GAMBLING INTERESTS.

AARON KOHN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE METROPOLITAN CRIME COMMISSION OF NEW ORLEANS, WAS A WITNESS BEFORE THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CRIME. THE COMMITTEE IS LOOKING INTO THE INFLUENCE OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN SPORTS.

KOHN SAID J. M. "PETE" MENEFEE, LOUISIANA CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER WHO WAS ONCE A MEMBER OF THE RACING COMMISSION, SAID THINGS TO THE RACING COMMISSION LAST YEAR THAT CONFLICT WITH TESTIMONY FROM TWO WITNESSES BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

JOHN MASONI, PRESIDENT OF JEFFERSON DOWNS RACE TRACK IN NEW ORLEANS, SAID TUESDAY HE DONATED $5,000 IN 1964 TO THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN OF JOHN J. MCKEITHEN. MASONI SAID THE MONEY WAS PART OF A POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION OF $25,000 PAID TO THE MCKEITHEN CAMPAIGN AT MENEFEE'S REQUEST.

MASONI SAID HIS PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE EMPRISE CORP. OF BUFFALO, N.Y., WERE ASKED TO SHARE IN THE DONATION.

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ROBERT P. LEACY, A FORMER OFFICER OF EMPRISE, THE NATION'S LARGEST SPORTS CONCESSIONAIRE, TOLD THE COMMITTEE MAY 11 THAT MENEFEE HAD ASKED HIM FOR THE $25,000. LEACY DID NOT NAME THE PERSON FOR WHOM THE MONEY WAS BEING GATHERED, EXCEPT AS A LOUISIANA GOVERNOR.

MCKEITHEN'S EIGHT-YEAR ADMINISTRATION AS GOVERNOR ENDED A FEW WEEKS AGO AND FORMER REP. EDWIN W. EDWARDS WAS SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR.

KOHN SAID TODAY MENEFEE APPEARED BEFORE THE RACING COMMISSION JUNE 18, 1971 AND WAS SKED IF HE RECALLED ANY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPRISE OR THE JEFFERSON DOWNS CORP.

KOHN SAID MENEFEE, A RACING COMMISSIONER UNDER GOV. EARL LONG AND CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER UNDER MCKEITHEN, TESTIFIED, "NO, SIR. I DO NOT. I EMPHATICALLY DENY THAT ANYONE GAVE ME THE MONEY."

JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS, CHIEF LAWYER FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE, ASKED KOHN IF HE THOUGHT SOMEBODY HAD COMMITTED PERJURY.

"CERTAINLY," KOHN SAID. HE SAID HE WOULD ASK THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF JEFFERSON PARIS (COUNTY) TO "INSTITUTE PERJURY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MR. MENEFEE."

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